

summed under Macro-Management mode to adopt regionally differentiated technology suited to agro-climatic conditions of different States and Union Territories.

Bottling and sale of coconut water

4585. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tender coconut water is more hygienic and contains more protein than mineral water;

(b) whether the tender coconut water is also cheaper than mineral water;

(c) whether new technology has been developed in the country, like mineral water, for bottling and sale of tender coconut water for general consumption;

(d) whether Karnataka and other States in the country are producing large quantity of tender coconut; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take for promotion of tender coconut water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Tender coconut water has natural taste and flavour and contains sugars, minerals, vitamins and proteins. Tender coconut water also contains enzymes in minute quantities.

(b) Same volume of tender coconut water is costlier than mineral water.

(c) The Coconut Development Board in collaboration with the Defence Food Research Laboratory has developed technology for preservation and packing of tender coconut water in pouches and cans. This technology has already been transferred to five entrepreneurs, out of which, one of them has already set up the unit in Karnataka with capacity of 10,000 nuts per day at a total project cost of Rs.75.00 lakhs. The product has already been launched in the market and the price is Rs.12.00 for a pouch of 250 ml.

(d) In Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu large quantities of tender coconut are produced whereas in Kerala coconut is mainly produced for converting into copra.

(e) Coconut Development Board is implementing following programmes during 9th Plan for increasing production and productivity of coconuts including tender coconut for drinking purpose:

- (i) Production & Distribution of quality planting material,
- (ii) Area expansion under coconut, and
- (iii) Integrated farming for productivity improvement.

Besides, tender coconut variety has been evolved and is being popularised. The Coconut Development is also promoting the consumption of tender coconut water in the country. The Board had earlier provided assistance for setting up of tender coconut water parlours and proposes to promote these parlours at a wider spectrum. Brochures and advertisements are released through mass media for generic promotion of various nutritional and medicinal properties of tender coconut water.

Suicide by farmers in Karnataka

4586. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who committed suicide in Karnataka during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the details of amount of compensation paid to the victims' families so far, by the State Government and the Central Government; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to prevent suicides among the farmers' community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka have not reported any such suicides.

(c) Necessary steps in this regard have to be taken by the State Governments concerned.